## Message Text

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FOL RPT PALERMO 0077 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ROME TRIPOLI 3 FEB QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A ---- TAGS: PFOR IT LY SUBJ: LIBYAN INTEREST IN LAMPEDUSA

REF: PALERMO 40

1. FEBRUARY 28 EDITION OF PALERMO'S PCI-LINING DAILY L'ORA,

- USUALLY A GOOD SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON LIBYAN ACTIVITIES IN SICILY - REPORTS THAT THE LIBYAN NATIONAL INVESTMENT COMPANY HAS JOINED WITH VALTUR SPA, A LEADING ITALIAN TOURS OPERATOR, ON A JOINT VENTURE ON THE ISLAND OF LAMPEDUSA. BEFORE FINANCIAL STRINGENCIES IMPEDED THE COMPANY'S ABILITY TO CARRY PROJECT FURTHER, VALTUR HAD PURCHASED LAND VARIOUSLY REPORTED AT 160 AND 220 ACRES) FOR TOURIST COMPLEX AT ISOLA DEI CONIGLI ON ISLAND'S SOUTH COAST. SINCE LIBYANS' ACTIVELY SHOPPING FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO INVEST IN SICILIAN TOURISM AND LAND ON ISLANDS IN STRAITS OF SICILY - SEE REFTEL), VALTUR ACCEPTED DEAL WITH ABOVE INVESTMENT COMPANY TO FINANCE CONSTRUCTION OF HOTEL FACILITIES. AMOUNT OF LIBYAN INVESTMENT NOT DISCLOSED BUT VALTUR WOULD RETAIN MANAGEMENT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOURIST FACILITIES, WITH LIBYANS RETAINING OWNERSHIP OF LAND/BUILDINGS.

2. L'ORA ARTICLE SUGGESTS THAT EARLIER LIBYAN INTEREST IN LAMPEDUSA INVESTMENT HAD BEEN THWARTED FOR "FOREIGN POLICY" REASONS IN THAT LAND LIBYANS WERE PREVIOUSLY INTERESTED IN WAS ADJACENT TO THE "LORAN STATION, AN AMERICAN BASE WHICH IS PART OF NATO". L'ORA THEN IDENTIFIES U.S. LORAN STATION AS FULFILLING COAST GUARD

FUNCTION OF PROVIDING NAVIGATIONAL AID FOR MILITARY AND CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT AND VESSELS. L'ORA ARTICLE
SUGGESTS THERE IS NO AMERICAN OPPOSITION TO LATEST LIBYAN PROJECT.
INDEED, SAYS L'ORA, IN INTERVIEW WITH RESPONSIBLE U.S. OFFICIALS
IN LAMPEDUSA, LATTER DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF ISSUE AND UNDERLINED U.S. PRESENCE WAS PURELY FOR CIVIL NOT MILITARY PURPOSES.
COLLINS
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## Message Attributes

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